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Lava Beds National Monument News Release

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Lava Beds and Tule Lake Bring in Crowds in 2014!

TULELAKE, California— Lava Beds National Monument had a great year in 2014. We were excited to have hosted 135,000 visitors to the park! These visitors had a chance to learn about our country's history, explore the dark underground, and soak in the high desert expanses. The warm weather this winter is a lasting invitation to keep visiting and experiencing Lava Beds.

The Tule Lake Unit also experienced a banner year of visitation. Though still developing, 5,000 persistent and caring visitors learned more about the injustices endured by Japanese Americans during World War II at Tule Lake. This includes scores of school children who have attended numerous educational field trips.

"Lava Beds and Tule Lake are amazing places and amazing stories. We hope for the chance to continue to bring these important parts of the American landscape to future visitors" says Superintendent Mike Reynolds.

Visitation at America's national parks broke all-time records in 2014, as the National Park Service prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2016 with a major push to encourage more visitors to experience their national parks in 2016. In 2014, there were 292.8 million visits to national parks, breaking the previous record set in 1987 when parks saw just over 287.2 million visits.

"As the National Park Service strives to share a more inclusive and well-rounded version of the American story through the places we care for, it is gratifying to see more people than ever coming to their national parks to enjoy nature, learn about history, and spend time with their families," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "As we look ahead to our centennial in 2016, I am looking forward to announcing a new record-breaking number of visitors coming to experience national parks next year and beyond."

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Lava Beds National Monument, established in 1925, is a land of turmoil, both geologic and historic. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. Lava tube caves, Native American sites, historic battlefields and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

For more information about visiting Lava Beds National Monument, call 530-667-8113, email labe_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/labe. Like us on Facebook; follow us on Twitter.

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